divisions as well as centrally, within the Department, and also by the Planning Commission, which reviews them on a quarterly basis.

Inward postal traffic

4974. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the inward traffic of the money orders and other articles into the country through Postal Department during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the traffic is gradually coming down;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for such a decline in the postal traffic into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The inward postal traffic for the last five years is as given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below):

(b) No, Sir. The traffic is fluctuating in all categories except EMS (International Speed Post) where there is consistent increase.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

Inward Postal Traffic during last five years

Inward Money Orders:

Year	No. of Inward Money Orders	Amount in Rupees Crores
1998	42918	18.86
1999	45922	19.61
2000	46265	18.89
2001	44556	20.45
2002	42169	22.57

Inward Traffic Figures of other articles :

Year	No. of EMS (International Speed Post) articles in '000s	Weight of letters in '000 Kgs.
1998	314	3656
1999	345	3974
2000	346	3698
2001	350	3179
2002	358	3521

Inward Parcels

Financial Year	No. of parcels in '000s
1998-1999	210
1999-2000	231
2000-2001	242
2001-2002	236
2002-2003	362

Software Services Exporters

†4975. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of software services exporters is increasing sharply;

(b) if so, whether emphasis has been laid on the need to encourage the small software companies; and

(c) if so, the number of such software companies sent to the information Technology Exhibition in foreign countries, till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) :

(a) Yes Sir, the total number of software exporting companies increased from 625 in 1997-98 to 2870 during 2001-02.

(b) A number of schemes have been initiated by the Government such as Market Development Assistance to financially assist small software companies in exploring software export markets. Electronics and Computer Software Export

†The original notice of the question was received in Hindi.